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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PINR, PE
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH WOLA AND HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH.

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED.

2. SUMMARY: ANNE MANUEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH/AMERICAS (HRW/A), AND COLETTA YOUNGERS, SENIOR ASSOCIATE FOR THE ANDES FROM THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON LATIN AMERICA (WOLA), CALLED ON THE ARA/AND OFFICE
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DIRECTOR AND PERU DESK OFFICER ON NOVEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS CONCERNS ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF AN ALLEGED USG INTELLIGENCE RELATIONSHIP WITH VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS USED THE MEETING TO NOT ONLY DISCUSS MONTESINOS, BUT ALSO TO URGE THE USG TO REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PRESSING PERU ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS MADE SEVERAL SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING ACTIONS THE USG MIGHT TAKE IN PERU REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
DATE/CASE ID: 28 SEP 2001 200004441

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MONTESINOS

3. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS STATED THAT MONTESINOS, WHOM THEY ASSERTED IS WIDELY REGARDED AS DE FACTO HEAD OF THE PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN), HAD BEEN THE "MASTERMIND BEHIND AND COMMANDER OF" THE COLINA DEATH SQUAD IMPLICATED IN THE LA CANTUTA AND BARRIOS ALTOS MASSACRES. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT MONTESINOS HAD ACTUALLY ORDERED THESE MURDERS. THE NGO REPRESENTATIVES ALSO ALLEGED THAT MONTESINOS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A COVER UP OF THE "CAJARA" MASSACRE. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS ALSO STATED THAT THERE WAS SERIOUS AND MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT MONTESINOS HAD RECEIVED PAYMENTS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

4. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS CRITICIZED THE USG REACTION TO THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE SWIRLED AROUND MONTESINOS. THEY ARGUED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT STATEMENTS MADE BY USG OFFICIALS THAT "NO SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU IS KNOWN TO ENGAGE IN, ENCOURAGE OR FACILITATE THE ILLICIT

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PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH DRUGS OR SUBSTANCES" HAD NOT BEEN THE PROPER RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NARCOTRAFFICKERS AND MONTESINOS. RATHER, MANUEL AND YOUNGERS ARGUED THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE INDICATED THAT PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE DRUG AND OTHER CHARGES AGAINST MONTESINOS.

5. THE HRW/A AND WOLA REPRESENTATIVES ALSO CALLED THE VISIT OF ONDCP DIRECTOR MCCAFFREY TO LIMA THE "ABSOLUTE CROWNING" OF MONTESINOS, AND WONDERED WHETHER MCCAFFREY HAD FELT "AMBUSHED" WHEN MONTESINOS SAT IN DURING A MCCAFFREY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI. THE HRW/A AND WOLA REPS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THE USG HAD IN THEIR VIEW DONE NOTHING TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION AFTER THE MCCAFFREY VISIT.

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

6. YOUNGERS NOTED THAT THE USG ROLE IN THE POST AUTO-GOLPE PERIOD (1992 - 1995) HAD BEEN HELPFUL. WOLA OVER THE LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE USG HAD NOT BEEN AS VOCAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, AND THAT THIS HAD BEEN INTERPRETED IN PERU AS A SIGN OF LESSENERED USG INTEREST ON THIS SUBJECT. YOUNGERS DID NOTE THAT

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AMBASSADOR JETT HAD RECENTLY MADE A GOOD STATEMENT WHEN HE
STATED THAT THE USG "WAS NOT CONGRATULATING ANY ONE
OFFICIAL" WHEN IT NOTED PROGRESS THE GOP HAS MADE.
YOUNGER S ALSO NOTED THAT THE USG SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN OUT
PUBLICLY AGAINST THE PERUVIAN CONGRESS' CONSTITUTIONAL
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INTERPRETATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW PRESIDENT FUJIMORI TO
SEEK A THIRD TERM AND THE RENEWAL IN OCTOBER OF FACELESS
COURT LEGISLATION.

7. MANUEL AND YOUNGERS MADE SEVERAL SPECIFIC
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING STEPS THE USG MIGHT TAKE TO
ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN PERU. SPECIFIC IDEAS
ADVANCED DURING THE NOVEMBER 5 MEETING BY HRW/A AND WOLA
INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A) MORE FREQUENT USE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS, BOTH BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON AND BY EMBASSY LIMA, TO
HIGHLIGHT GOP HUMAN RIGHTS DEFICIENCIES

B) SUPPORT FOR AN UNHRC SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR OR INDEPENDENT
EXPERT FOR PERU

C) AN EXPERTS GROUP TO ASSESS GOP IMPLEMENTATION OF
GOLDMAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING JUDICIAL
REFORM

D) EMBASSY INQUIRIES CONCERNING GOP PROGRESS IN
INVESTIGATIONS OF SPECIFIC CASES OF ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS
ABUSES (NOTE: YOUNGERS MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO 16
CASES WHICH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI APPARENTLY PROMISED WOULD
BE INVESTIGATED).

8. ARA/AND DIRECTOR DURING THE NOVEMBER 5 MEETING ALSO
INVITED THE NGO REPRESENTATIVES TO GIVE ADDITIONAL THOUGHT
TO OTHER ACTIONS THE USG MIGHT TAKE TO ADDRESS HUMAN
RIGHTS CONCERNS IN PERU AND TO SHARE THEIR IDEAS WITH
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ARA/AND AT THEIR CONVENIENCE.
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